

BSF firing kills one, several other villagers wounded in Lalmonirhat

LALMONIRHAT, June 28: A villager was killed and two others injured when the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) opened fire at Dharmapur frontier village in Ramnari thana of Kurigram district on Thursday, reports UNB.

Police said the BSF men fired shots at Abdul Rahman, 35, from Indian side as he was washing grass in Zinziram river near the 'no man's land' in the morning. Rahman died on the spot.

On hearing the rattling of shots, hundreds of villagers rushed to the spot and found the BSF men in Bangladesh territory.

The BSF men again fired shots at the villagers when they tried to resist them while taking away the body of Abdul Rahman.

Two villagers — Mafizul Haque, younger brother of Abdul Rahman, and Zakir Hossain — were fatally injured in the firing. They were admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital with bullet wounds.

Two other villagers — Simul, 12, and Rahmatulla, 28, were also missing since Thursday's incident.

Meanwhile, BDR company commander Naik Subedar Abdul Rab sent a protest letter to the BSF officials and demanded immediate return of the body of Abdul Rahman.

BDR sources expected a flag meeting between the Bangladesh Rifles and the Indian BSF Friday.

Journalist repression day observed in Rangamati

From CHT Correspondent

RANGAMATI, June 28: Rangamati Sangsadiki Kalyan Sangstha (RSKS) last Saturday observed 'Journalist repression day' demanding publication of the enquiry committee report on the assault of journalists by the police during the BNP regime on June 21, 1992 last.

A protest rally was held at the temporary office of RSKS in observance of the day expressing resentment for not publishing the report of the enquiry committee.

Organised by the RSKS, the meeting was presided over by AKM Ahorul Huq, President of RSKS.

The speakers at the meeting called for removal of all obstacles towards freedom of press and ensuring the freedom of expression.

Shakhawat Hussain Rubel, MA Siddique Sabuz, Tapas Chakma, Sheikh Mohammad Elias and Supriya Chakma were among others who addressed the rally.

Two new depts to be introduced at RU

RAJSHAHI, June 28: Two new departments and two institutes are being opened in Rajshahi University during 1996-97 session, reports UNB.

The departments are: Population Science and Human Resource Development and Genetics and Breeding.

The two institutes are: Institute of Environmental Science and Institute of Business Administration.

The University authority had sought allocation of Tk 20 crore under the fifth five-year plan for development of a number of projects, including extension of Zia Hall and construction of 4th Science building, beside launching of the above departments and institutes.

But official sources said the University Grants Commission has sanctioned Tk 10.50 crore for launching the departments and institutes only.

Goods worth Tk one lakh looted in Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, June 28: Properties worth about Taka 1.1 lakh (one lakh and ten thousand) were looted by dacoits in two separate incidents in Katiadi thana of the district.

A gang of dacoits raided the house of Abdul Halim Mia of village Charaldia and decamped with a TV set and other valuables amounting to about Taka 60,000, according to inmates of the house.

In another incident, the dacoits numbering about 20 entered the house of Zaim Mia of village Kayra at dead of night by breaking open the door and tied up the inmates after beating them up. The dacoits looted one tape-recorder and other articles worth about Taka 50,000 from the house. The dacoits fled before the villagers rushed to the house after hearing the and cry police.

Two separate cases were registered with Katiadi police station in this connection. The SP visited the spots. Police so far arrested three alleged dacoits named Ida, Mia, Hanif, Rafiq and Alam for their alleged involvement in these dacoity cases.

Shrimp fry produced using local technology in Cox's Bazar

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, June 28: The Bangladeshi team of Pioneer Hatchery Limited's scientists and technicians have created new history in shrimp aquaculture by producing postlarvae of the penaeus monodon (Bagda Chingri) entirely on their own from the company's hatchery located in the Kalatali Hatchery Zone of Cox's Bazar. Bagda Chingri fry produced by these Bangladeshi scientists and technicians from the hatchery at Kalatali, Cox's Bazar, has gone on sale for stocking by shrimp farmers from February 7, 96.

Pioneer's team of Shrimp Aquaculture scientists and technicians which has performed this first-time-ever feat of artificial propagation of the penaeus monodon on a commercial scale by Bangladeshis consists of Zahiruddin Mahmood, Project Manager, as the team leader, Modabir Ahmed Khondaker, Assistant Project Manager and Aung Sein, Production Manager, ably assisted and supported by two production officers and twelve other technicians and assistants working together at the hatchery.

Pioneer Hatchery Limited, a private enterprise born in February, 1991, became the first industry in the Shrimp Culture sub-sector of Bangladesh's economy to engage and harness 'appropriate technology' from Taiwan's Hanaqua International Corporation.

Bangladeshi DFI Sabino rendered it financial assistance. It became the first commercial hatchery to have produced Bagda Chingri fry during March, 1993 under expatriate experts of Hanaqua, Taiwan. Former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia formally inaugurated the company's hatchery on August, 1993. Since 1993 till 1995 Pioneer's hatchery had remained the lone hatchery in the country with the performance record of mass commercial production of Bagda Chingri postlarvae.

On August 16, 1995, Pioneer Hatchery Limited was accorded recognition when the government of Bangladesh awarded the company the 'Matshyapakkha Puroshkar 1995' as the best shrimp hatchery.

Talking to this correspondent, Managing Director of the hatchery Nizamuddin Mahmood Selim said that, pioneer's unique example of human resources development and internal resources utilization augurs well for the shrimp culture sub-sector. This achieved change of production made from the traditional to the modern epitomises a new metamorphosis in entrepreneurship and professionalism in the acquisition and application of innovative and appropriate technology and know-how.

Meanwhile, the government has taken a massive development programme for pisciculture, mainly exportable

shrimp, officials said here. Under the programme a total of 20 fish landing and service centres will be established in Cox's Bazar, Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat districts to ensure quality of shrimp in the field level.

According to official sources, the centres will be constructed at a cost of Tk nine crore under the Annual Development Programme (ADP). Meanwhile, the first phase of the programme on land acquisition has been completed.

It is mentionable, for lack of proper steps to ensure quality of shrimps at the field level, Bangladeshi shrimps get less than one dollar per pound in the international market. Besides, European Union (EU) has repeatedly stressed the need for quality control of the shrimps exported from Bangladesh.

The central shrimp cell of the country instructed the regional shrimp cells to take step to implement the shrimp landing and service centre project for ensuring quality of shrimp. Under the project three service centres will be established in Chokoria thana, two in Moheshkhali and one each of Cox's Bazar Sadar, Ukhra and Teknaf thanas, four in Khulna, four in Bagerhat and four in Satkhira districts.

The construction work of the centres will be completed by December this year, it is expected.

On the other hand, the tiger shrimp cultivation of the Cox's Bazar district is feared to have stopped for shortage of fry.

It is indeed a matter of great regret that the Bay of Bengal which has always been regarded as a fish store is being turned into a fishless waterbody in the name of catching tiger shrimp fry. Thousands of fishermen of Sadar thana, Moheshkhali, Kutubdia, Chokoria, Ukhra and Teknaf thanas take a huge advance amount of money for the collection of fry from the coastal belt of the Bay of Bengal. These fishermen generally catch fry with the help of current and 'bihindi' nets from Agrahayan to the middle of Asharh and supply these to the shrimp enclosure owners of Cox's Bazar, Khulna and Satkhira districts. A three month period from Agrahayan to Magh is the peak season for tiger shrimp hunting. But this year the gathering of shrimp fry were very insignificant during the last three months in the bank of the sea and rivers.

Last year the fishermen were able to catch an estimated quantum to the tune of 10 to 15 lakh fry daily during the peak season in the bank of the Bay of Bengal. In other months they were in a position to collect 7 to 8 lakh fry daily, said the concerned fishermen of the area.

On the other hand, only 4 to 6 thousand fry were collected daily in this year and at present only one thousand fry

is being collected daily, said the same source.

It was learnt from the concerned sources that the price of tiger shrimp fry has gone up in local markets several times because of the paucity of this species of shrimp fry. The fishermen of this area sold fry at Tk 50-60 per 100 to the keepers of warehouses or to wholesale merchants. From the warehouse when these fry reached the shrimp enclosure owners, the price per 100 stand at Tk 180. On the other hand, the fishermen sold their fry to warehouse owners per 100 at Tk 180 to Tk 190 this year and enclosure owners purchased the fry per 100 at Tk 500 to Tk 600.

Meanwhile, thousands of fry collectors of the district fail to catch fry even equivalent to their daily wages. Taking the risk of life, thousands of 'fry hunters' have been heavily engaged in collecting fry through current and 'bihindi' nets resulting in the destruction of a wide variety of species of different fish present in the coastal areas of Bay of Bengal. This means the entire sea becomes empty of fish.

A report from the actual field of fry hunting, it has been observed that the fry collectors after each dragging of current and 'bihindi' nets for 35 to 45 minutes come to the bank and releases the fry and other fishes that fell into their nets. Only one to two tiger shrimp fry come out of the each dragging of nets for 35 to 45 minutes.

In some dragging not even a single tiger shrimp fry is seen. But in each dragging of the nets small fishes of various species are caught. These small fry of other fishes mostly die on the bank of the sea.

At present some quantum of shrimp fry from Thailand is available but the shrimp enclosure owners can not rely on it as they consider it as of use after their release in the enclosures. The shrimp cultivators informed that because of salinity and temperature of the environment in Bangladesh, the fry from Thailand can not adjust here. In such circumstances the shrimp cultivators are passing their days in extreme disappointment.

According to an official source 2.70 lakh acres of land are being brought under shrimp cultivation in the country this year. But according to an estimate from a private source 3.60 lakh acres are being cultivated in the country. Since last year these had been bumper production of tiger shrimp in the country, the shrimp cultivators have been expressing their eagerness in the cultivation of the commodity in larger area.

Although the shrimp fetches a huge amount of foreign currency but facilities for producing the commodity have not increased proportionately. No institute has yet been formed for assisting in the production of the tiger shrimp.



SYLHET: A local organisation brought out a colourful rally in the town with a view to creating social awareness on last Wednesday in observance of the International Day against drug abuse.

Star photo

Town protection embankment needs immediate repairing

From CHT Correspondent

RAJBARI, June 28: A vast area of Faridpur and Rajbari districts may be inundated if the town protection embankment was not repaired immediately, reports UNB.

The 55-kilometre embankment along the river Padma protects a vast tract of crop lands and houses from flooding.

During the last flooding about 12-kilometre portion of the embankment was damaged. The most affected areas are Mizanpur, Uradkana, Ujanchar, Ishan, Gopalpur and Charnadhabdia.

Officials said if the embankment was not repaired, the flood water would easily overflow the embankment inundating the vast tract of land.

They said the government had sanctioned Tk 40 lakh for the work but the work could not be started due to nonavailability of the fund.

A plan was taken to repair the embankment under Food for Works Programme and an allocation of 1200 metric tons of wheat was placed. But the government sanctioned 850 metric tons which in turn would be available at the end of the calendar year.

Local leaders demanded immediate steps for repairing of the embankment so that the flood water could not damage the standing crops and property of a large number of people.

50 bottles of phensidyl seized: One arrested

BARISAL, June 28: Police seized 50 bottles of phensidyl from a bus on Khulna-Barisal highway in Gournadi thana on Tuesday, reports UNB.

They also arrested one Faruque, 22, in this connection.

Earlier, they arrested one Faruk Mridha, 34, a member of the outlawed Sarbahara Party (Kamrul Group), from Hosanabad area in the thana. He was wanted by police in four cases.

They also took 13 people into custody on various charges.

NGO office, shops looted in Jhalakathi

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, June 28: A dacoity was committed in an NGO office and 3 other shops at Nalchity of Jhalakathi district recently.

Witnesses said, a group of 10 to 15 armed dacoits swooped in an NGO office and 3 other shops and decamped with valuables of more than two lakh taka. A case was filed with Nalchity thana.

Two fishermen drown, nine rescued in Bhola

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, June 28: Two fishermen drowned and 9 others were rescued by the nearby fisherman when a fishing trawler sank in Parura river at the confluence of Bay of Bengal last week.

According to Police Super and the control room of Bhola, the ill-fated fishermen were engaged in fishing suddenly their trawler sank amid whirlwind and cyclonic storm in the confluence of Bay of Bengal, some 60 kilometres south east from Charfaisan thana of the district at about 7:30 am. There were 11 fishermen on board of whom deadbody of 2 fishermen were recovered alongwith nine other fishermen. The two deadbodies were identified as Abu Zaher Majhi, 40, and Motaleb Chowkider, 35.

Nonstop foul stormy weather alongwith gusty wind and rainfall is still continuing over Bhola and some thana areas of the district. Low lying areas of Bhola and offshore islands have already been submerged by onrush of flood water and rain, local sources said.

145 tribals return to Khagrachhari

From CHT Correspondent

KHAGRACHHARI, June 28: Some 145 tribals have returned from the different refugee makeshifts from the north-eastern Indian state of Tripura by evading Shantibahini vigilance in a month till last Thursday officials from the district administration said.

The self-repatriated refugees have already been resettled at their homes and hearths in Panchhari and Dighinala thana of the district with the incentives and facilities declared by the government being extending to the repatriated tribal refugees formally, the sources told The Daily Star.

Those who repatriated themselves within a month, returned from Pancharampur, Korbuk, Kathalchhari and Thakumbari refugee camps in Tripura state of India, sources said.

With them, the sources said, 2,668 tribal refugees of 686 families returned home to escape fatal diseases and starvation during the last one year.

The tribals in all the six refugee camps are desperately awaiting repatriation to escape an uncertain future in view of the reality, starvation and fatal diseases, officials quoted the returnees to have said.

When contacted, the Chairman of the Khagrachhari Hill District Local Government Council Samiran Dewan said the tribal refugees in large numbers were coming back to their ancestral land availing of all-out assistance extended by the authorities and prevalence of communal harmony in the region.

Jamuna erosion intensifies as rain, hilly waters engulf fresh areas

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, June 28: With rise in the water level of Jamuna caused by incessant rainfall and onrush of northern hilly waters, erosion have turned serious in the northern past of Sirajganj sadar thana.

During last 48 hours more than 300 houses were devoured by erosion rendering about 2000 persons homeless in villages Bhatpuri, Panchatari, Simla, Banglabazar and Subhagacha in Sirajganj sadar and Kaziupur thanas, according to local people.

It is learnt that with size in the water level, erosion of Jamuna has been intensified. The worst affected villages are Rao-tara, Arkandi, Dhitpur and Kaziupur in Shahzadpur, Simulia, Ralipara and Enayetur in Chowdhali, Reghullah, Zangalia, Mulkani and Charbel in Belkuchi, Chhatiantali, Banbaria, Ghurka, Mirpur, Panchatari, Bhatpuri, Simla and Chongacha in sadar and Subhagacha, Sonali Bazar, Banglabazar, Reghali, Natnarpur and Tekani in Kaziupur thanas.

The Brahmaputra flood control embankment at Kaziuri and Dhitpur is only a few yards away from the erosion points.

Recently erosion at Simla, Bhatari and Panchatari villages under sadar thana and

Young man commits suicide in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, June 28: A young man allegedly committed suicide at Telikhil village under Compaungganj thana today, Badrul Alam, 18, had been missing for the last one week.

When contacted, the Chairman of the Khagrachhari Hill District Local Government Council Samiran Dewan said the tribal refugees in large numbers were coming back to their ancestral land availing of all-out assistance extended by the authorities and prevalence of communal harmony in the region.

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One killed in road mishap

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, June 28: One person was killed and another was injured in a head-on collision between a microbus and a truck at Piroipur on Jhenidah-Jessore highway on June 20.

According to police sources, the Khulna-bound microbus was hit by a Jhenidah-bound speeding truck from the opposite direction. The microbus was badly damaged and Abdul Razzaque, 45, administrative officer, Khalishpur housing estate in Khulna, died on the spot and his son Moniruzzaman, 15, received injuries.

Both the drivers of microbus and truck fled the scene just after the incident.

A case was filed with Kalganj thana in this connection.

Jewellery shop looted in Magura

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, June 28: Snatchers looted gold ornaments worth about Tk 50,000 from a jewellery shop in the town in broad day light on June 19, reports UNB.

The armed miscreants numbering four entered the jewellery shop 'Lakhsmi' while some customers were buying ornaments.

At one stage, the snatchers pointed firearms at the salesmen, looted the ornaments from the counter and hurriedly fled the place.

Meanwhile, on the same night goods worth about Tk 20,000 of Sreepur High School were stolen.

More fire stations needed in Sherpur

From Our Correspondent

SHERPUR, June 28: Fire incidents are destroying property worth crores of Taka every year in five thanas of the district due to lack of adequate fire service units and better communication system.

According to fire service sources, property worth about Taka 12 crore were gutted in these thanas last year.

The only fire service station is located in the district headquarters which covers all the five thanas. Local people feel that more fire stations need to be set up.

Besides, due to absence of good communication in Sre-bord, Jhenagati, Nalitabari and Nakla thanas, the firemen cannot reach the spot in time. Moreover, many places are inaccessible to fire brigade as river route is the only means of communication.

Meanwhile, property worth about Taka 70 lakhs was burnt to ashes in two separate devastating fire in Nakla and Nalitabari last week.

Frequent power failure in Netrakona

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, June 28: Frequent power failure across the district has been causing serious problems to normal life of the people, particularly students and officials, reports UNB.

Suspension of electricity supply is a regular feature in all the 10 thanas of the district. Power remain disrupted almost all the day every now and then, sufferers alleged.

As a result, the residents, particularly students, patients and officials, have been suffering much in the sultry weather.

Thunder bolt kills one, two others injured

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, June 28: One Gatey Ali, 50, an egg trader of village Shahervita under Gaibandha sadar thana was killed when a thunder bolt struck him injuring two others on June 26 morning.

According to report, it was raining heavily. The victim was engaged in house hold work in his home. Suddenly a thunder bolt fell upon the thatched hut in which he received severe shock and died on the spot. Two other inmates of the house also sustained burn injuries. The hut was also damaged due to impact of lightning.

Body recovered in Rangamati

From CHT Correspondent

BAGHAICHHARI (Rangamati), June 28: The Baghaichhari thana police has here recovered the body of a young man from North Khagrachhari-Dhurchhari road recently.

The victim was identified as Surjya Sen Chakma, 22, of village North Khagrachhari in Baghaichhari thana of the district. He has been missing since June 16, police sources said.

Newly married Surjya was returning home from Dhurchhari bazar on June 16 evening, but he did not reach home police quoted the villagers as saying.

His body bore wounds at different parts. The body was sent to Rangamati sadar hospital for autopsy. A case was lodged with Baghaichhari thana police.

The reason behind the killing was not known. However, nine war arrested in this connection.

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SYLHET: Chairman, Britain-Bangla Friendship Society Ahmedus Samad Chowdhury handed over a cheque for Tk 5000 to the Chairman of Lions Shishu Hospital, Sylhet, Dr Azizur Rahman at a reception accorded to him last week.

Star photo

In secondary & junior schools Enrolment of girl students in Rajshahi Div rises fivefold

From K M Rezaul Huque

GAIBANDHA, June 28: Number of girls students in secondary and junior secondary sections here increased five times since the introduction of free education as well as scholarship in 16 northern districts. This was recently revealed in a survey conducted by Education Directorate, Rajshahi Division.

According to education department source, during 1989-90 academic year, a total of 21,417 girls students took admission in 2,078 secondary and 368 junior secondary schools throughout the Rajshahi Division which increased to 64,387 in 1992. The number further increased to 76,121 in the year 1993 which added to 87,831 in 1994 and till January 1995 it was enhanced to 1,07,897 girls.

Besides, introduction of scholarship for the girls student upto class VIII is one of the reasons of influx of girls

students in